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NOTES AND DISCUSSIONS.

"THE PLATONIST," SECOND VOLUME.

[“The Platonist,” it seems by the following circular, was only temporarily suspended. It appears again with the beginning of 1884, and will continue its work of making accessible rare and valuable Platonic writings, together with new and original commentary. We shall notice its contents from time to time.—ED.]

“THE PLATONIST,” VOLUME II.—AN EXONENT OF THE PHILOSOPHIC TRUTH.—ESOTERIC CHRISTIANITY IS IDENTICAL WITH TRUE PHILOSOPHY.

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THOMAS M. JOHNSON,
Osceola, St. Clair County, Missouri.

Eleven numbers of Vol. I. can be supplied at \$3.00 post-paid. The edition is limited, and early orders are suggested. Bound copies of the complete volume were sold at \$5.00; unbound, at \$4.00.

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INTELLECTUAL LIBERTY AMONG THE GREEKS.

Mr. F. M. Holland's "Rise of Intellectual Liberty," soon to be published by Henry Holt & Co., opens by relating how the Ionian philosophers and their pupils were persecuted by Athens, to her own destruction, and how Socrates, Plato, and their contemporaries awakened mental activity. Chapter II describes the conquest of Greek and Roman polytheism by the speculations of Pyrrho and Epicurus, aided by the science of Alexandria. The next two chapters are given to the reaction in favor of supernatural religion accomplished by unintentional co-operation of the Roman emperors and early Christians. A sketch may here be found of the process by which tyranny destroys itself. Western Europe is next seen, first in such subjection to the Church that persecution became almost unknown, and then in irrepressible agitation, produced partly by the Catharists and other popular preachers against the luxury of the clergy, and partly by those early rationalists, the Nominalists. Putting down these heretics necessitated not only atrocious cruelties, but such reckless reliance on the superiority of intuition to reason as stimulated a mighty growth of independent mysticism. This was the inspiration of Dolcino, Dante, and Rienzi, among whose contemporaries in the fourteenth century were those sovereigns of France and Germany who gave timely checks to papal arrogance. The eighth chapter shows how the authority of the Bible was set up by Wycliffe and Huss against the popes, whose supremacy was at the same time endangered by the attempts of three great councils to make the Church a limited monarchy. Then follows a chapter on the "Revival of Letters," when classic learning, oceanic discovery, printing, art, and